

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

535. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,82,063 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

536. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,233 for Inspectors by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

537. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for temporary clerks by Re. 1.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

538. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,883 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :

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542. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,883 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH :

543. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,100 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

544. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,100 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

545. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,300 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI :

546. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,96,650 under Demand VIII by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH :

547. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5,96,650 under Demand VIII by Re. 1.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I put Demand VIII—Excise—for Rs. 5,96,650 to the vote of the House.

The Demand was passed and the grant made.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1 o'clock and re-assembled at 2 P. M. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

DEMAND IX—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forest*) : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,97,938 under Demand IX—Forest.

Motion No 548.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,80,000 for royal trees by Re. 1 to discuss the need for the disafforestation of lands that lie on both sides of Trivandrum-Shencotta road to a width of 200 ft, beyond the 24th mile in T. S. road, and also for the purpose of discussing the need that the wet lands that lie inside the reserve forests in Nedumangad taluk be disafforested and given in registry. The word "uplands" found in the printed agenda placed before us is a clerical mistake. It is a printer's devil. It should be changed to 'wet land'.

Sir, the Trivandrum-Shencotta road is a very important road in the State. This is frequented by people as well as heavy traffic.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Just one word. With regard to the word 'wet lands' I wish to tell the House that I have looked into the original records and I find the word is 'wet-lands'.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittu*): So, is the House to understand that the member wrote it originally as 'wet lands'?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Certainly. It means that the member wrote 'wet lands'.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Thank you, Sir, for the correct information.

But, as matters stand now, it is not easy for passengers as well as traffic to go through Trivandrum-Shencotta road beyond the 24th mile due to the difficulty that is experienced on account of the inroads and attacks of wild animals such as elephants and other animals. There are several instances in which wild elephants have brought havoc on costly human lives and also destroyed vehicles while they were passing beyond the 24th mile. Further, that road leads to important places such as Courtallum and other places beyond Travancore.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Under what head does this motion come? The member wants to reduce Re. 1 from Rs. 1,80,000 and he is talking of elephants and all that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, lands to a width of 200 ft. that lie on both sides of the Trivandrum-Shencotta road beyond the 24th mile should be disafforested and given in registry, so that the road be cleared of the invasion of wild animals, and people and traffic may pass peacefully.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : My difficulty is what connection it has with the allotment of sums for royal trees. Probably the member means, if trees from these places are cut, less royal trees will have to be cut from other places. That is the way in which it is relevant.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, am I in order in explaining my position while you are on your legs?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You are certainly out of order in putting questions when I am on my legs. I want to make it clear that it is not very intimately connected with that demand. I was just trying to give the member the benefit of an explanation as to how his motion is relevant.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): There are very few royal trees on both sides of the Trivandrum-Shencotta road beyond the 24th mile and hence it will not be difficult for Government granting the registry of the lands beyond the 24th milestone of that road. It will cause very great difficulty to the passengers to go from one part of the country to the other, I mean, from Trivandrum to Shencotta and other places through this road as it lies at present. This is a question which the people of Nedumangad taluk, in the interest of travelling public, have

[Mr. S. J. Nair.]

been demanding for the last so many years. The poor agriculturists cannot pass through the road without the assistance of guns and other articles in order to safeguard their life, person and property.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I entertain great difficulty as to how it comes under this head. What do you say Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar, Vakil*) : Sir, I think that it is not relevant to the motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The only way in which the member can put it is to say that, if some royal trees are cut from this land, less should be spent in cutting other royal trees. The member does not say that and therefore I rule that this motion is out of order.

Motion No. 549.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,66,500 for timber and other produce removed from forest by Government agency by Re. 1"

The object of the motion is to point out that more profit could be made out of the forest produce with better administration. Sir, in Travancore we have got 2,400 square miles as reserve forest. It is just below one third of the whole area of the State. The forests, if properly administered, will be a source of huge income to the State. But we find, on a perusal of the Budgets of the previous years, that the income from the forest has been going down while the expenditure has been running up. In 1101, the income from the Forest Department was Rs. 14½ lakhs, the expenditure during that year Rs. 7.8 lakhs and the net profit was Rs. 6.6 lakhs. In the Administration Report of 1101, this is what is stated about the income relating to Forests. :—

"Taking the net receipts for the year, the State realised from her forests an average income of a little over 6 annas per acre or three times the average income derived at present from the British Indian Forests. This is low and is capable of substantial increase. This will be possible only if the growing stock is improved, if new uses, markets and demands are developed, if extraction and exploitation are conducted on improved methods, and if greater attention is paid to minor forest products".

While in the year 1101 the income from the minor produce alone is more than Rs. 60,000, this year the amount anticipated from that item is only about Rs. 2,000 for the next year. The income from the minor forest produce for the next year is only Rs. 2,000. That is the same as the amount of 1108, and under the revised estimate the income in 1109 for minor forest produce is Rs. 2,500. It could be found that the expenditure under the item of minor forest produce was only Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 before, while they have estimated an expenditure of Rs. 800 for the next year. Similarly we would find that the income has gone down and the expenditure has gone up for all the other items in the year 1101. This question of the increase in the expenditure was brought to the notice of the Government so early as 1098 or 1099 in the old

Legislative Council. What the Conservator of Forests then said was that, owing to the revision of salary and increase in the staff, the expenditure has been going up and that he would see that better yield is obtained from the forests of the State. If the Conservator's plea is that the price of timber has gone down unconscionably owing to the economic depression and so the income has also gone down, what I would suggest is that he is not entitled to spend a much larger amount than in the year in which the income was very high.

Another thing which I want to bring to the notice of the House is that, if the timber cut down from the forest and sold fetches only a very small price, the Department should not cut down timber and sell them in these days. It is not an easily perishable article. We can very well wait for some time more when better prices could be obtained. It appears that the Forest Department is very anxious to justify the heavy expenditure by selling the timber at the fag end of the year to companies. I would suggest that by a more efficient administration of the Forest Department it could be made a source of huge income to the country. Though the amount that we get now is very small, it can be increased to very considerable extent. With these words, I move this motion for the consideration of the House.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : സർ, മി: ആശാൻ ഈ സഭയുടെ സ്വീകരണത്തിനായി സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ:ക്ഷേപ

തേതെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. എനിക്കു കൂടുതലായി പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ള ചില സാഗതികൾ മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ. ൧൯൩൨ മേമാസം ൨൭-ാം-ാം Dis. No. ൮൫൧൦ നമ്പരായി ൧൧൦൭ ഇടവം ൧൭-ാം-യിലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഗസറ്റിന്റെ ൭൫൬൦ വശത്ത് പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള പ്രൊസിഡിംഗ്സ് നസരിച്ചു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ രാജകീയ വൃക്ഷങ്ങളെ മൂന്നുബ്ളാക്കുകളായി തരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒന്നാമത്തേ ബ്ളാക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട രാജകീയവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ ൧൧൦൮ അവസാനത്തിനു മുൻപും, രണ്ടാമത്തേ ബ്ളാക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ ൧൧൧൩-ാമോണ്ടു അവസാനത്തിനു മുൻപും, മൂന്നാമത്തേ ബ്ളാക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവ ൧൧൧൭-ാം മാണ്ടിനു മുൻപും, ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും മുറിച്ചുമാറ്റണമെന്നും, അല്ലാത്ത പക്ഷം ഈ വകവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ അതതുസ്ഥലത്തു് ഉടമസ്ഥർക്കു് തന്നെ സിദ്ധിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നും പ്രൊസിഡിംഗ്സിൽ വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഉദ്ദേശ നാലുത്തിന് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും നിയുക്തരായ ഏജൻമാർ പലവിധപ്രലോഭനങ്ങൾക്കും വശംവദരായി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും നാശകരമായ പലപ്രവർത്തികളും ദിവസംപ്രതി ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ റദ്ദായിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ് എന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും രാജകീയവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ മുറിച്ചുമാറ്റുന്നതിനു കൺട്രാക്ട് എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകൾ കുടിയാനവന്മാരുടെ കയ്യിൽ

[Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai]

നിന്നും കൈക്രൂലിവാങ്ങിക്കുകയും അങ്ങിനെകൊടുക്കാത്ത ആളുകളുടെ ഭൂമിയിൽനിൽക്കുന്ന വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ എത്രചെറുതായാലും ഭൂവിചാരത്തോടു കൂടി മുറിച്ചുമാറുകയും എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രതിഫലംകൊടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ആ വസ്തുക്കളിൽനിൽക്കുന്ന വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ എത്രമാത്രം വണ്ണമുള്ളതായിരുന്നാലും വെട്ടിമാറാതെയിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും മുദ്ര അടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വൃക്ഷങ്ങളല്ലേ മുറിച്ചുമാറുന്നത്?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : മുദ്ര അടിക്കുന്നതിനായിപ്പറ്റി പറയാൻ തുടങ്ങുകയാണ്.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനവേണ്ടി ആരാണ് മുദ്രഅടിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : മനുസാക്ഷിയിലാത്ത ചിലതാഴ്ന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണ്. അവരെ സ്വാധീനപ്പെടുത്താൻ യാതൊരു വിഷമവുമില്ല. ഇതുനിമിത്തം പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള കേസുകളും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ വെട്ടിമാറുന്ന രീതികൊണ്ടുതന്നെ കുടികൾക്ക് ദിവസപ്രതിയും നഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ൧൧൧൩ ലോ ൧൧൧൭-ലോ മുറിച്ചുമാറേണ്ടതായ പത്തു വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ ഒരു വസ്തുവിൽ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ വൃക്ഷം വീതം ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും മുറിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നു. ഈ വിഷമതകൾക്കു ഒരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കാനായി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ഓരോ പുരയിടങ്ങളിലും നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ള വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു സെൻസസ് എടുത്ത് അവ ഒരു നിശ്ചിത കാലത്തിനകം വെട്ടിമാറണമെന്ന ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഒരേവസ്തുവിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന പത്തുവൃക്ഷങ്ങളെ പത്തുവർഷംകൊണ്ട് മുറിച്ചുമാറിയാലും അത് ശിക്ഷാർഹമായിരിക്കുന്നില്ല. വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ മുറിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അവിടെയുള്ള ദേഹസ്ഥങ്ങളെ നശിപ്പിക്കുന്നത് നിമിത്തം വസ്തു ഉടമസ്ഥർ വളരെ നഷ്ടം വരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്രകാരം ഒരേവസ്തുവിൽനിന്നും മുറിച്ചു മാറേണ്ട രാജകീയവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം ഒരേ അവസരത്തിൽ തന്നെ മുറിച്ചുമാറണമെന്ന നിബന്ധനയുള്ള പക്ഷം തന്മൂലം വസ്തു ഉടമസ്ഥൻ ആവർത്തനവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു നിശ്ചിത കാലത്തിനുള്ളിൽ ഒരു വസ്തുവിലുള്ള വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ മുറിച്ചുമാറണമെന്ന ക്ലിപ്തപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നാൽ ഈ വിധത്തിലുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You are more concerned with the profit of the Department than the suffering of the people?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ഫോറസ്റ്റ് പ്രാഡ്യൂസ് എന്നുള്ള വിവരണത്തിൽ തടികൾക്കു് ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുന്നത്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You do not catch my point. You are more concerned with the wording of the motion which says:

"To point out that more profit could be made out of the forest produce with better administration."

You may just mention that the people also will be well benefited.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും രാജകീയവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ മുറിച്ചുമാറുന്നതു സംബന്ധിച്ച വ്യവസ്ഥിതമായ ഒരു നയം സ്വീകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാത്തതുനിമിത്തമുണ്ടാകുന്ന സങ്കടം പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടേയും ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെയും ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാനായി ഈ സഭയിൽതന്നെ ൧൧൦൯ മിഥുനമാസം ൧൦-ാംനും അതിനുശേഷം ഞാൻ രണ്ടു പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ അയച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ അഞ്ചുമാസമായിട്ടും എന്റെ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്കു മറുപടികിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല. ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ചുമതലകളെപ്പറ്റി ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ അയക്കുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്കു സമാധാനം കിട്ടുന്നതിന് പ്രായേണ സാധ്യമല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ലഭിക്കുന്നവിവരങ്ങൾ അപൂർണ്ണമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ അയക്കുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു യഥാകാലം മറുപടികിട്ടിയിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം ശരിയായി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ധരിപ്പിക്കാമായിരുന്നു.

ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിലേക്ക് ലഭിച്ചുവരുന്ന ആദായം വർഷാന്തോടൊന്നു വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നു. ഈ കുറവ് എത്രയാണെന്ന് ൧൧൦൮-ലെ സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിക്സിന്റെ ഒരു ചട്ടത്തിൽനിന്നും കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. അതനുസരിച്ച് ൧൧൦൭-ൽ ൧൩,൫൫,൨൩൮ രൂപ ആകെ വരുവു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നത്, ൧൧൦൮-ൽ ൧൨,൦൩,൩൫൩ രൂപയായി കുറഞ്ഞു. ൧൧൦൭-ൽ ചിലവുകഴിച്ച് ൮,൪൨,൮൭൨ രൂപാ മിച്ചമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ൧൧൦൮-ൽ ആയതു ൪,൦൪,൮൦൫ രൂപയായി കുറഞ്ഞു. ഇതിൽനിന്നും ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിലെ ഭരണം ഒരിക്കലും തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നും സ്ഥിരമായ ഒരു ഭരണനയം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റു സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നും വ്യക്തമാകുന്നുണ്ട്.

ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിലെ സിൽബന്തികളുടെ അശുഭയും തോന്നുവാനുണ്ടാകാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്ക് വലിയൊരു നഷ്ടംവന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉദാഹരണം ൨,൦൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവുവന്ന ഒരു ആനയെ റാന്നിത്തുരുത്തിയിൽപെട്ട ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തുവെച്ച് ന്യായരഹിതമായി വെടിവെക്കുകയുണ്ടാ

[Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai]

യി. ഈ പ്രവർത്തി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ കീഴ്സിൽബന്റികൾ ചെയ്തതാണെന്നു അവിടത്തെ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ അറിയിച്ചു.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Does the word "produce" comprise elephants also ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : It does.

ആന വനവിഭവങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവയെന്നുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെ വെടിവെച്ചത് അവിടെയുള്ള സിൽബന്റികൾ ആണെന്നു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ അറിവുകൊടുത്തപ്പോൾ അതിനെ മറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനോ എന്നു തോന്നുമാറു് അവിടത്തെ റയിഞ്ചാഫീസറും മറ്റുസിൽബന്റികളോടുകൂടി കേവലം നിർദ്ദോഷകളായ ചില സാധുക്കളുടെമേൽ കൃത്രിമമായി കേസുനിർമ്മിക്കുകയും ഒടുവിൽ പത്തനംതിട്ട മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടുകോർട്ടിൽ കേസ് വിചാരണ ഉണ്ടാകുകയും ചെയ്തു.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : കാട്ടാനയെ ആണോ നാട്ടാനയെ ആണോ വെടിവെച്ചത്?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : നാട്ടാനയെ ആയിരുന്നു വെടിവെച്ചതെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കിക്കൊള്ളുമായിരുന്നു. കാട്ടാനയെ ആണ് വെടിവെച്ചത്. തന്നിമിത്തം വ്യാജസൃഷ്ടിക്കുകക്കാരണമായി. അവസാനത്തിൽ കേസ് തെളിവില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ തള്ളി. ഇങ്ങിനെ പലവിധത്തിലും ജനങ്ങളെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnathnad II*) : പത്തനംതിട്ട മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടുകോർട്ടിൽ കൊടുത്തിരുന്ന കേസിലെ ജഡ്ജിമെന്റിൽ ഫാറസ് റുക്കാർ തന്നെയാണ് വെടിവെച്ചതെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : അങ്ങിനെ ജഡ്ജിമെന്റു എഴുതിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Of course what the member said could be heard. If the member said so, Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar could have heard. I want to know whether there is any observation in the judgment.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnathnad II*) : I want to know whether it was found by the court that the elephant was killed by the forest officers; the member observed that this elephant was killed by the forest officers.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ആ കേസിൽകോടതിയുടെ ആലോചനക്ക് വിഷയമായിരുന്നത് ആ പ്രതി കുറ്റംചെയ്തോ എന്നുള്ളതായിരുന്നു. അതിലേക്ക് തെളിവില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ കേസ് തള്ളി.

ഇങ്ങനെ തുടർന്നുപറയുന്നപക്ഷം ഫാറസ് റുക്കാർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ നടക്കുന്ന അഴിമതികളും തോന്നുവാനുള്ള അവസ്ഥയും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടാണു്. ഈ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കൺസർവേറ്റർ അർഹി

ക്കുന്നത്ര ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റുമൂലം സാധുജനങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്ന സങ്കടങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമം വേണ്ട എല്ലാശ്രമങ്ങളും കാലവിളംബമെന്തു ചെയ്തു രാജ്യത്തെ രക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Sheriala I*): Sir, I support the motion of Mr. Asan. My submission is, there are very many defects in the working of the Forest Department. Regarding the orthodox ways of managing the Department and regarding the routine, there is not perhaps very much for dissatisfaction but if we are to judge the efficiency of the Department by modern standards, then it must be confessed that the working of our Forest Department is far from satisfactory. The forest produce and the possibilities of the reserve forest are considered to be of immense future possibilities. The principle of the up-to-date up-keep of Forest Department has now attracted the attention of various advanced countries. My submission is that there is no serious effort as yet made by the Conservator of Forests to avail himself of the latest developments in this direction. From the last Administration Report we see that regarding working of the coupes, regarding the disposal of *kudivila* claims and in the detection of forest offences, the efficiency of the Forest Department leaves much to be desired. The question of royalties is rather peculiar to Travancore. It does not obtain either in the sister State of Cochin or in British India and on this there was much heart-burning in the country. As a result of public agitation, that is abolished by the Government. But in the actual working of the Government circular, the Conservator does not seem to give effect to the spirit of the proclamation or the rules thereon. I mean the indiscriminate and rather wanton destruction of small trees standing on registered holdings throughout the State. This must be characterised as a 'mischief' on the part of the Forest Conservator. Representations come from the people that the trees may be allowed to stand on their holdings and they are willing to give the share of the value to the Government. Even that legitimate and modest representation of the people is not paid attention to. In Travancore, there are not very many people well versed in this technical subject of Forestry and it must be said.—

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is there any officer well versed in forestry in Travancore?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Sheriala I*): Regarding that and many other subjects, I am afraid the official Bench is not blessed sufficiently.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I certainly object to that kind of statement because the efficiency of the Government Benches does not arise in discussing this motion. There may be other occasions when it may have to be considered.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): I regret having made that statement, Sir. All the same I claim there is not one officer in the department who can put forward any modest pretensions to having any decent knowledge of forestry.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are there not officers trained from European Universities?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): They may have academic knowledge, but not practical sagacity and wisdom and knowledge of local conditions. Judged from the results of the working of the department, I am sorry that there is disappointment.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Is the member aware that the British officers have expressed their opinion that the administration of the Forest Department in Travancore is an ideal one to follow?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): I am not concerned with the opinions expressed by the British officers.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All that is irrelevant. Your opinion of British officers does not count in this matter. But you may say whether you are aware of it or not.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, on a point of order, I wish to know whether it is irrelevant that a British officer expressed a particular opinion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It appears to be irrelevant.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): On a point of order. I wish to know whether it is furnishing information or whether the member is not eliciting information.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, I consider it a plain case of eliciting information. Since he wants to know whether Mr. Padmanabha Menon is aware of a certain opinion.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Well, Sir, I confess that I have not conducted a personal investigation as to whether any British officer has expressed any such opinion.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnnatnad II*): On what basis did the member say that the officers of the department had no knowledge of rules or of forestry?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): The member will have the patience and courtesy to wait and the wisdom will dawn on him (*Laughter*.)

Sir, regarding the abolition of royalty, Travancore State has been divided into three portions and the whole scheme is to work itself out in the course of 10 years. Now what I am concerned with is that, if a generous interpretation had been put upon that proclamation so much complaint would not have arisen in the actual working of that. Because of the policy of the present Conservator, there is much heart-burning.

Then, one another aspect to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is the anxiety to show substantial increase in the annual income from the forest department. The present Conservator shows feverish haste to sell away all trees in the Government depots at the fag end of the year, to the permanent detriment to the Government.

The practice on the part of the forest officials to dispose all these timbers to show a surplus, leads after all to the ultimate loss to the State. My submission, Sir, is that this harmful practice must be discontinued.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I wish to add a few words in support of the motion. The object of the motion is merely to point out that more profit could be made out of the forest produce with better administration. The object cannot be stated in a more moderate manner.

People who care to understand even the superficial features of forest administration will see that the department lacks in driving force and in initiative. One instance I would point out from the Administration Report of the Forest Department for 1108. On page 17 of the same book there occurs a significant paragraph which will show that the administration of the department is gradually deteriorating and this is a matter that will affect the revenue of the State.

Another point which has been suggested is the foolish policy adopted by the department by selling timber for the purpose of increasing the revenue and thereby showing to the public a good ground for justifying the very existence and expenditure on the department. We find that great havoc is done to the permanent wealth of the country by the anxiety of the department to show some revenue. I understand that the prime duty of the department is the conservation of the forest. The Conservator of Forests himself has stated on many an occasion that the prime duty of his department is the conservation of the forest and not revenue. Ultimately for safeguarding the revenue, can it be justified that the permanent wealth of the State should be destroyed? The price of timber has gone down unconscionably low and why is the hurry on the part of the department to show this revenue by positively destroying the wealth of the land? It is against the declared policy of the department. And it is against the intentions of the constitution of the department. Moreover we find there exists an absolute lethargy with regard to the activities of the head of the administration. It may be due to the fact that a man loses his interest for work when he is in a particular place for a very long time.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I would appeal to the members' good sense to avoid such observations.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Indirectly it may be, I do not think that anything can be said without touching personalities even indirectly.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Whose personality is involved here?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Chair thinks that Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's remarks verge on personalities.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Because the whole thing has come to a standstill owing to the lack of driving force and initiative on the part of the head of the department, I made those remarks. We find from reports from year to year that the department has no new lines of work chalked out. During the days of the old Council, the late Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, who was a member and who knew the Forest Department through and through placed before that Council many valuable suggestions which would have improved the revenue and also the administration of the forest considerably. I heard on those occasions the same Conservator making assurances that this will engage the attention of the Departmental Head or the department. Not an inch of progress has been made and whatever has been done was of a retrograde character. No step forward has been taken. But the forest Department has only succeeded in going back. Sir, let us not quarrel over that. And this policy of cutting down trees was adopted at the time of this economic depression. And to sell them in a haphazard fashion shows the utter indifference of the department. If no improvement can be effected, let them not destroy the prospective wealth of our land. I hope the Conservator will at least attend to this.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the Honourable member whether he will be satisfied merely with the receipts under the department?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Receipts are not at all the prime concern of the department. It is the conservation of the wealth of the forests which is the prime object with which the department was constituted. And the head of the department has declared it a hundred times. I agree with my friend Mr. Asan in thinking that the Government are following a foolish policy in cutting down timber at this time and selling it at whatever price it would fetch. Trees are being cut and sold only to show some receipts by the department. I would make this modest request to the Conservator of Forests and to the Government, "Please do not destroy the prospective wealth of our land even if you are not prepared to improve the wealth".

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നയം ഉടൻകൊണ്ടുപോകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ കൺസർവേറ്ററുടെ പിൻഗാമിയുടെ കാലത്ത് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഇനങ്ങൾ കാണാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): That is exactly my point.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I am very sorry to say that Mr. Velayudhan Pillai's question is not in order and no attempt should be made by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai to answer that. I disallow that question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know from the member whether, by following the present policy, there is any possibility of getting any revenue a few years hence?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): The answer is obvious. I make this request to the Conservator and to the Government, with all the force that I can command, to desist from this foolish practice of cutting down trees and selling them at low prices.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torvala*): May I know whether indiscriminate cutting of trees should be permitted to continue after a definite period?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Trees should be cut only if we could get a fair price.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torvala*): May I know from the member whether, if the trees are not cut at the proper time, they will go to waste?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Yes, there is a limit.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think in one place Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai said that the Conservator of Forests pursued a foolish policy and towards the close of his speech he has said the Government is pursuing a foolish policy.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I meant that the Conservator as the representative of Government pursued a foolish policy.

MR. K. P. KRISHNAN MENON (*Parur*): May I know from the member whether this indiscriminate cutting of trees by the department is not due to the proposal to abolish the royalty?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I am not concerned with the motives of Government.

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): സർ, മി. ആശാൻ ഹാജരാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ എന്റെ മുൻഗാമികളായ പ്രാസംഗികന്മാർ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാത്ത ചില സംഗതികൾ പറയണമെന്നേ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ നിന്നു കിട്ടുന്ന വനവിഭവങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ വിപകിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം അവകൾ ലേലം ചെയ്തു വിൽക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പരമ്പര പത്രങ്ങളിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഞാൻ രണ്ടുമൂന്നടിവസത്തിനുമുൻപായി ഇവിടെ ഒരു ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചതിനു മറുപടിയായി പത്രത്തിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു വിഭവങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ വില കിട്ടുന്നതിനു സൗകര്യമാണെന്നും, ആ പതിവു ഇതിനുമുൻപു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നുമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ആ പതിവു നിറുത്തിയത് ഒട്ടും ആശാസ്യമല്ല. ഇതിനു മുൻപു പ്രജാസഭയിൽ പലതവണയും ആക്ഷേപം പറപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നതും ഫലമായിട്ടാണ് അങ്ങിനെ പത്രങ്ങളിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന

[Mr. M. K. Madhavan Pillai.]

രീതി ഗവണ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നത്. തടികൾ ലേലം ചെയ്തവിൽക്കുന്നതിന്നും, കൂടുതൽ വിചിത്രുന്നതിന്നും പത്രത്തിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഈ സംഗതികൾ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇതും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) Sir, I have more than once given out in this Assembly that the Forest Department is not a goose that lays golden eggs. There is a limit to its resources.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) Is it a goose?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Expressions in the English language are to be understood in the way they are to be understood. The use of the word goose by the speaker is quite intelligible; and I do not permit Mr. Asan to put any such question.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Does the department lay any egg, let alone golden eggs?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That, I must say, is puerile. (*Hear, hear.*)

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I protest against that word from the Chair.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I want the member to submit to the ruling from the Chair.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I submit, Sir, but with a protest.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not submission; I want him to submit without a protest.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I submit to the ruling of the Chair, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am very glad.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is a limit even for the resources from the forest. You cannot expect the forests to produce revenue indefinitely. Moreover the present prevalence of the economic depression stands in the way. Even the price of paddy has abnormally fallen. But in spite of it, our forests are being developed according to a definite plan of action prepared and approved by Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member why, if it is not lucrative to manage the forests as the Conservator does, he should go about cutting down trees?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As I told you, the forests are being managed under working plans and according to that, a certain number of trees has to be cut down every year not only for the sake of revenue but also for the improvement of the forest. This working plan has been sanctioned by Government. If Government would only say that the forests need not be cut down and that no revenue is required out of it, certainly a deviation can be effected and not otherwise.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know from the member whether he has brought it to the notice of the Government that cutting down trees at this time will not be lucrative?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not necessary. According to the working plans, a certain number of trees has to be cut down every year and removed for sale.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know whether he has brought to the notice of the Government that it is selling at a loss?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Certain proposals have been submitted to Government.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnathnad II*): Does not Government also plant with teak in the places wherefrom timber is removed? I refer to *taungya* cultivation.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes in some places where areas have been specially selected, we remove the timber growth and replant them.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*): Has the member had to sell larger quantities in 1108 than in 1107?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forest*): Probably the quantity of royal trees sold in 1108 may be a little larger than in 1107.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*): My question is whether he was dealing with the timber under his disposal in a way which is not profitable ultimately to the Government.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not the question of profit or otherwise. We have to sell timber because stock would be accumulating otherwise. If there is a little excess in 1103, it is due to the working down of some more quantity.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know from the member whether there is a foreign market for Travancore timber?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Our market extends only up to Tanjore and Negapatam. We have no foreign markets and timber bought from our forests will go only up to Negapatam, because railway freight is too high.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*): If the Conservator has allowed the trees to grow further without reducing them to timber now, at any rate, he could have reserved these trees to be cut down on a future occasion when prices improve.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In that case, the provisions of the working plan already sanctioned by the Government have to be modified.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*): But the Conservator should recommend that with a view to reserve these for a future occasion and to sell them at a better price.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No, it is not usually done. But in cases where the working plan operates to the disadvantage of Government, such recommendations are made. In no place such wholesale stoppage of felling is brought into effect.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether we have planted timber suitable to the manufacture of camp cots? (*Laugh er.*)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You need not answer that question.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is not a demand for that timber in the country?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no extensive demand for timber in our country. The local demand will be about 20 per cent. of our total sale. We have to find sales only in outside markets.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): What is the average quantity of timber sold?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): 20 or 25 per cent. of the sales.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The average quantity?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have no information.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether, in the matter of royal trees, any census is taken?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No census has been taken; but we know more or less the area and the approximate quantity available. On the other hand, if we are to go about enumerating all the trees, it will consume a lot of money which it will not be advisable for Government to spend. After all, these are trees which have to be cut down in the course of a few years and any money spent upon this census will not be justifiable.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish questions may be reserved till the Conservator makes his remarks.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Mr. Velayudhan Pillai has been condemning the department for removing timber from private lands below a certain growth. But he said that there was a practice going on, by which, if the private owner of the land bribes the contractor, his trees escape being felled. This is a piece of information which I get for the first time. I have seen Mr. Velayudhan Pillai once or twice. If he wanted really to tell me this, he could have told me then.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): I have sent two interpellations, one on 19-7-1109.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Conservator did not refer to interpellations.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): I wish to know whether the Government are aware that such a question has to be answered?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Has not that question been answered by Government?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Not yet.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Then it is not the Conservator's fault.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): This is the best time to bring it to his notice.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I must say that when the Government has not replied, all these questions cannot be fixed upon the Conservator.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): The question has been admitted.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not know exactly how and in what way the contractor can help a private man by not felling his timber. These timbers are marked by our men and the contractors have to account for all marked trees.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): A little louder, please. He is not speaking sufficiently loud.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Thanu Pillai enquires if you will speak louder.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I think I am speaking sufficiently loud.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): That he is not.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is for the first time that I come to know that our contractors are unscrupulous people and that they can help trees standing in private compounds from being felled.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Does the member assure—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : He has sat down.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): When we were about to ask questions, he said we may be—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : In that case, I am prepared to revise my ruling.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Does the member assure the House that he would not remove any timber from the forests in respect of which there is no working plan?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, everywhere it is so except in one place for which there is no working plan.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): And in the case of that forest for which there is no working plan, the Conservator can remove timber?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is a preliminary working plan, approved by Government.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Is there no definite programme or other scheme for the collection of royal trees in addition to the general rules under the Forest Regulation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We go by *pakuthies*, for we have to go over a bigger area and contracts are given *pakuthi-war*.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Who does it, the Conservator, the Forester, or the Ranger.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The Conservator of Forests has not gone to these places. The proposal is received from the Divisional Forest Officer.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think sufficient time has been allowed for putting questions. No more time can be allowed.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I wish to make only one observation. Some of the members on this side of the House, who spoke in support of the motion tried to base an argument upon the fact that the number of cases in which acquittals were recorded in forest cases increased in 1108 as compared to the number in 1107. I for one fail to see the logic of the argument that an increase in the number of acquittals in 1108 indicated that forest administration had deteriorated.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quion I*): May I know who was in charge of these cases. Is it the Conservator or anybody else?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am not concerned with that. I am only trying to make out that it is not a safe and sound test by which the efficiency of the administration of the department can be determined. Suppose, for instance, the number of acquittals in 1109 fell considerably as compared with the number in 1108, can we rush to the conclusion that the efficiency of the department has fallen in 1109? It is not a safe and sound argument. The number of acquittals in cases charged depends upon various circumstances and not upon the administration. It is quite possible that in 1110 the number of acquittals may go down and next year it may go up. We cannot come to the conclusion that the efficiency of the administration is determined by the fall or rise in the number of acquittals in the cases charged.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): By increase in the number of acquittals, is it not presumed that a larger number of false cases is launched by the forest subordinates?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): What I suggest is that the number of acquittals depends upon a variety of circumstances, over which the department has no control, and no argument can be built on the figures representing acquittals.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I support the motion. Some of my friends, after having dealt with the commissions on the part of the Forest Department, have shown how Government are about to sustain a serious loss in the matter of revenue from the Forest Department. Sir, I am going to deal with some of the omissions; with which the Forest Department or the officers therein have failed to attempt to realise more and more revenue from the forest produce. If only the Forest Department co-operated with Ayurveda Department in the State and collected forest produce of medical value and supplied to the Ayurveda Department, the department would have derived a very good

income. There is one more suggestion, Sir. If only the Forest Department co-operated with the Industrial Department in Travancore and supplied them excellent timbers that would be most useful for the manufacture of camp cots and other articles of furniture (*cheers and laughter*). Yes, our forest is full of good and excellent timber for manufacturing excellent camp cots, chairs, etc, that would vie with the camp cots that are imported in Travancore from outside markets. Sir, Government would have derived a good income. I know as a matter of fact that our forests are full of good timber, useful timber, beautiful timber, timber best fitted for the manufacture of excellent furniture such as camp cots, camp chairs, camp tables etc. The Government would have derived a good income. Sir, in this direction, I know, as a matter of fact that, our forest is full of excellent timber, best fitted for the manufacture of camp cots. Sir. I have seen the famous proprietor Mr. Krishna Menon of the Kallayi factory in Malabar, manufacturing camp cots out of timber that is available in plenty in our forests. There are ever so many timbers that are found in our forests, that would be most useful for the manufacture of camp cots and other articles.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish to know from Mr S. J. Nair whether there is any provision in the budget for the making of camp cots.

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nelumangad): Sir, the motion before the House is to point out which of the forest produce—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, order. The member may reasonably expect that I have seen the wording of the motion and the Budget. So, when I put the question whether there is any provision of funds for the manufacture of camp cots, Mr. S. J. Nair could have been courteous enough to give a direct answer to that question. I do not want to take up the time of the House by saying more than this, *viz.*, Mr. S. J. Nair has adverted to the manufacture of camp cots at sufficient length and that nothing more need be said about that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nelumangad): My submission is that, if only the officers of the department studied the question seriously and very well and took more pains to collect the forest produce available in our forests and to supply it to the Industries Department as well as to the Ayurveda Department in the State, we are sure to derive better income and greater profit.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (Ambalapuzha I): Sir, I feel I am somewhat in agreement with the gentlemen who supported the motion before the House. I do not however see the use of such vehement language as some of them have used. Certain aspects of the administration of forests require some satisfactory explanation so that the Conservator may steer clear of all criticism.

In the first place, the hurry with which the cutting of timber, I mean the royal trees, from private lands is being carried on seems to be an indiscriminate activity in proceeding with the business of the department. It is true that the department has a time-limit within

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

which it has to remove royal trees from private holdings. In the anxiety of keeping within the time-limit I understand, Sir, that an amount of indiscriminate cutting of unserviceable timber is being resorted to by the subordinates and contractors of the department. That is unwise. The department, or, say, the State, would not be deriving any perceptible advantage from such cutting. On the other hand, the land-holder on whose land these royal trees stand will be seriously damnified and ultimately the wealth of the State would be seriously reduced. If the Conservator of Forests is prepared to give up red-tapism and, to meet the holders of the properties, where these royal trees stand on amicable terms, he can by an adjustment of the claims of the Government and the land-holders transfer the immature trees and saplings to the holders of the lands, receiving the share of the value of such trees as may be found due to the Government and allowing the holders in course of time to utilise the timber on their properties. I have come across certain instances in which the present Conservator or his predecessor has been too stiff with the land-holders on whose private holdings royal trees stand. They were quite prepared to pay the share due upon the royal trees to the Government, on condition that the trees might be allowed to be removed by them for various purposes. But by a stern adherence to red tape, the department refused to yield, with the result that litigation ensued. Though ultimately the High Court said that under the law as it stands, the Government's position was legally correct, the situation was deemed deplorable inasmuch as the holder of the land to whom some sort of right is conceded in the Regulation to purchase the trees on payment of the share due to Government, was really incapacitated from exercising such right owing to the adherence of the department to technicalities. I think such an application of technicalities by the department in such matters is rather unwholesome.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May I know from the member when it was?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): It took place say during the last three or four years. The dispute might have originated a few years before. But the matter crystallised into a case before the High Court three or four years ago. So, I am submitting, Sir, that, if there is an offer from the people themselves on whose holdings the royal trees stand that they are prepared to purchase them on payment of what is due to the Government, the department will suffer no harm by agreeing to such an amicable offer. Therefore, the Conservator will do well to consider this aspect of the question instead of going about doing havoc to unserviceable timber.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT. If the law is too severe, you want the law to be changed?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Yes. The High Court deplored the rigidity of the law in that respect. They found that it was not possible so long as the law stands as it is, to do adequate justice to the parties baffled by the statute.

Another matter that may be considered is this. The proceedings of the old Legislative Council were referred to by one of the previous speakers and I have been put in mind of what the present Conservator said on one occasion in the old Legislative Council. He said that the State need not expect to make any profit from the forests. If that were the case, to what purpose are the forests maintained? That is a very legitimate question. This pronouncement was made by the Conservator of Forests years ago. It must have been after 1097 and before 1103, for, that was the period during which I was in the Council. Since such a pronouncement was made by the Conservator so early as that, has the attention of Government been drawn to that opinion of the Conservator and has anything been done to modify the view of the Conservator or the control of the department? I fear nothing has been done. The routine is being kept up. There is the Conservator and there are certain officers under him who go on as of old without considering the benefit to accrue from the administration of the forests. Certain suggestions have been made by my enthusiastic friend Mr. S. J. Nair that there are various possibilities in the forests. Have the Government considered these aspects? No, evidently not. He was dealing not only with camp cots but with various medicinal plants available in our forests. I myself would like to draw attention to wild animals, specimens of which would enrich our public zoo, by their addition. With the profits from forests dwindling, it is simply surprising to see that the Conservator of Forests finds it difficult even to protect game in the forests so much so another Protector of game had to be appointed. All these aspects of the case require consideration. I am sorry that no satisfactory explanation has been forthcoming from the Conservator of Forests.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*); Sir, I have to make just one or two observations about the percentage of failure in the total number of cases brought by the Forest Department. Mr. Karayalar referred to it. The results cannot be otherwise expected when we take into consideration the pendency of the cases. We find that many of the cases were pending for a very long time and unless the criminal cases are disposed of promptly and expeditiously, whether charged by the Forest Department or any other department, the results cannot be very satisfactory. Mr. Karayalar was asked as to how he could explain the large percentage of acquittals. I have given a suggestion.

About the other suggestion made by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, I am in entire agreement with it. The department is now felling royal trees from private compounds. What the department does is to fell those trees, to remove them to the nearest depot and then have them sold. It is after the sale proceeds are obtained that *kudivila* is given to the *kudiyan*.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MEHON (*Parur*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that the system has been changed?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : I am glad to hear that the system has been changed. If the rules could be so amended or, if as Mr. Krishna Menon wanted to suggest or did suggest, the rules have been changed in a better manner, I shall be really satisfied. That will be a great relief to the *kudiyans* who are affected. As I understand, the system is to remove the royal trees to the nearest depot, have them sold there and then pay the *kudivila* to the land-holder. My submission is that the *kudiyans* should be given the right of buying over the Sirkar's right on payment not of the tariff value but of the price for which the timber of like variety was sold in the nearest depot during the preceding month. If such a thing is done, it will really be useful to the *kudiyans*.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Sir, the Conservator of Forests has not answered any of the points raised by me. My case was that a large amount is spent for removing the timber from the forests and that the department is not making any profit, or, if at all, it is making only a very small profit on account of the sale of timber.

I would just point out to the attention of the House one fact, to convince the House of the correctness of the statements made by me. In 1108, the amount spent for removing timber by Government generally under timber is Rs. 7.40 lakhs and the amount obtained by sale of timber is Rs. 10.40 lakhs. So, about Rs. 3,00,000 was realised by sale of timber by Government agency from the forests. That was the profit made and the quantity sold was about 12.57 lakhs of c. ft. By selling 12.57 lakhs of c. ft. of timber, Government got Rs. 3,00,000. That is what I find from the Administration Report and from the Budget. The Conservator has not answered that point in his reply speech.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*) : Before the member is allowed to continue, I would like to have an explanation from the member, because it is a very serious revelation made by the member.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : All that the member can do is to put a question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : The budget provides the explanation to the member. If he would refer to pages 15 and 55 of the Budget, he can understand.

The Conservator was saying that they are working the forests under a plan prepared some time back and the Government have not sanctioned any alteration in the working plan. I would like to know the object with which the working plan was prepared. Is it to conserve the forests or is it to derive as much revenue as is possible from the forest? If these are the objects, I think both the objects are now defeated by the present arrangement. The Conservator is destroying the forests by removing as much as possible. He is selling at a very low rate. He says there is no market for timber. He says, Bombay is not a good market and there are few places in Travancore where timber can be sold. Then I ask what is the object with which the

timber is removed. If the working plan is not profitable, it is his duty to see that the plan is altered. He says nothing has been done in that direction.

Another point is, he says that it is owing to economic depression that there is so much fall in the receipts from Forest Department. But, Sir, the cost of working has not been reduced. Not only the establishment charges but even the cost of removing timber through Government agency has not gone down. In 1101, as I pointed out, the total expenditure for the department was only Rs. 7.8 lakhs, while the income was about 15 lakhs of rupees. This year, the expenditure is more than Rs. 8 lakhs and the income is just above Rs. 12 lakhs. So the income is gone down by 1/5 and expenditure has gone up to some extent. On this ground, I think that it is a very serious matter and the House will consider these aspects and unanimously support this motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, with regard to the figures Mr. Asan gave, I am not in a position to know exactly what he has meant.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In the figures I gave relating to receipts, there is some slight alteration.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr Asan has conceded there is some mistake. So you can proceed

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I pass on to the next point.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*): May I know what is the difference in the amount, please. According to the correct calculation, may I know how much was spent on transportation of timber?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Very probably, Mr. Asan is under the impression that all the timber transported has been sold. It is not so. There is a huge stock left behind and that will be carried on to the next year. So the calculation he has made cannot be accurate.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*): The House wants information from the member

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please say you want the information and not the House.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamittita*): The member wants information from the Conservator as to how much amount was spent in 1108 for transportation of timber and the quantity of timber removed with that amount.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): The member is now studying the papers. Has not the member studied the statistics of figures?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai raised an objection to the effect that the member has no right to study his papers here. I take a different view altogether. Rather than giving problematic answers

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conceived without reference to the records, I would congratulate the Government member in making an honest attempt to study the papers and the member has not taken any inconceivably long time. Questions which are not anticipated are often put. In the interest of proper discussion, reasonable time may be allowed and only reasonable time has been taken by the member. The member is in order.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Mr. E.V. Krishna Pillai asked me the quantity of timber for which expenditure was incurred: But the quantity of timber will not be found in the Budget estimate.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know the receipts of the sale of timber and the amount spent?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Rs. 10 lakhs. Expenditure on that is Rs. 5,39,000

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the average income that is now derived from one candy of timber?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It varies from Division to Division.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): What is it in the Central Division?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Which species is meant?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Teak.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It will be about 11 to 12 annas per c. ft. on the average.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): 11 to 12 annas per c. ft. It includes first, second and third class.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The average net price will be 12 annas.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Is it inclusive or exclusive of the cost?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is inclusive of the *kudivila* and exclusive of the cost.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether Government are prepared to sell these trees to the respective land-owners on payment of the price at this rate?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This rate is only a rough average. It may vary according to the locality. In the Koni Division, the average may be 12 annas. But in case of land where no *kudivila* is to be paid, it may be more.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Is the member in a position to state whether, in the case of land in which no *kudivila* is due, Government are prepared to accept this rate?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot commit Government to any statement. As for this suggestion, this matter was gone into by the Committee appointed and they were not in favour of it.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): തടികൾക്ക് വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന താരിപ്പവില കാലദേശാവസ്ഥകൾ അനുസരിച്ചാണോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): താരിപ്പവില കൂടിപ്പോയതായി വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. തടികൾ ലേലം ചെയ്തു വില്ക്കുന്നത് അവയുടെ മാർക്കറ്റിലെ അനുസരിച്ചിരിക്കും.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഡിപ്പോകളിൽനിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾ അധികമായി തടികൾ വാങ്ങിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നത് താരിപ്പവില അധികമായിപ്പോയതുകൊണ്ടാണോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അതെ.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സാധാരണ തടികൾ ലേലം ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ താരിപ്പിന്റെ എന്തെങ്കിലും ഭാഗം ലേലം ചെയ്യുന്നത്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഓരോ ഡിവിഷനിലും ഓരോ മാതിരിവരും.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): പൊതുവെ നോക്കുമ്പോൾ എത്രയാണു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന് ആദായംകിട്ടുന്നത്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): താരിപ്പവിലയുടെ 60 മുതൽ 70 ശതമാനംവരെ ആയിരിക്കും.

With regard to one or two points brought forward by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, I have to say that there is no attempt made by the Department to hurry up with the extraction of royalties. In fact there is a certain quantity beyond which markets will not consume and this is the quantity that has been the basis of our extraction. He also mentioned indiscriminate cutting of trees. That matter was also brought before Government and I made enquiries and I have issued strict circulars that no tree below 30 inches should be cut.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): How many years before this was the circular issued?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some four years ago a circular was issued that under no circumstance a tree below 30 inches should be allowed to be cut. So far as my information goes, no tree under 30 inches is cut at present.

He made another proposal as to why they are not engaging private owners. He referred to a case. I do not know exactly when the case arose. So far as my knowledge goes, there has not been any case.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): If the member would permit me, I would give better information.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Does Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai want to give a personal explanation?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): The case that I referred to is one which arose between Parayathu Menon on one side and the Dewan of Travancore on the other side. The matter was litigated for many years and ultimately disposed of by a Full Bench of the High Court, one of the learned judges dissenting from the views of his colleagues.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is the date of the decision that the Conservator wants.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): The final decision was in Meenam or after Meenam 1108. There were a number of remands and all that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Conservator was desirous of finding out when the dispute was started.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): As to that, I am not in a position to say now.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Generally what is the average? Will it be 15 years since it was started.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): It will be, I think, above 12 years since the inception of the case.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forest*): Now that Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has said what it is, I know something of the case. In that case, the owner of the land prevented the Forest Department from removing trees in the hope that those trees, if left behind, would lapse to him when the report of the Royalty Committee is sanctioned by the Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Asan, do you press the motion?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I demand a poll.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Can an official member demand a poll?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Every member has got that right, whether official or non-official.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows:—

AYES - 31.

1 Mr. T. K. Alexander	8 Mr. K. M. Krishnan
2 „ A. S. Damodaran Asan	9 „ K. P. Krishna Menon
3 „ A. Easwara Pillai (Kottarakara)	10 „ Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar
4 „ K. R. Elenkath	11 „ E. V. Krishna Pillai
5 „ S. J. Nair	12 „ N. K. Krishna Pillai
6 „ T. S. Jayantan Nam- putiri	13 „ Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai
7 „ T. C. Joseph	

AYES 31.—(contd.)

14 Mr. T. Krishna Pillai	23 Mr. Kainikkara M. Padmana-
15 „ K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	bha Pillai
16 „ M. K. Madhavan Pillai	24 „ Changanachery K.
17 „ K. Mahomed	Paramesvaran Pillai
18 „ M. N. Nair	25 „ V. Ramakrishna Panickar
19 „ C. P. Narayanan Bhatta-	26 „ R. Raman Pillai
tiripad	27 „ K. Sankaran
20 „ Pacode A. Narayana Pillai	28 „ A. Thanu Pillai
21 „ S. Nilakanta Pillai	29 „ N. E. Varughese
22 „ Edavanatt S. Padmanabha	30 „ V. K. Velappan Nair
Menon	31 „ T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

NOES—27.

1 Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar	15 Mr. K. Madhavan
2 „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai	16 Srimathi T. Narayani Amma
3 „ A. Easwara Pillai (<i>Kal-</i>	17 Mr. G. Nilakantan
<i>kulam II</i>)	18 „ R. Nilakanta Pillai
4 „ Antony George	19 „ K. Padmanabhan
5 „ K. George	20 „ Kayalam Paramesvaran
6 Miss Hepzibah Gnanasikamony	Pillai
7 Mr. M. Mahomed Haneef	21 Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja
8 „ N. John Joseph	Aiyangar
9 „ K. C. Karunakaran	22 Mr. R. Sambasiva Aiyar
10 „ T. T. Kesavan Sastri	23 „ M. Sivatanu Pillai
11 Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan	24 „ R. M. Statham
Pillai	25 „ S. Thiraviam Nadar
12 Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman	26 „ T. C. Thommen
13 „ E. K. Kunjuraman	27 „ G. B. E. Truscott
14 „ C. O. Madhavan	

NEUTRALS—10.

1 Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	7 Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai
2 „ K. C. Abraham	8 „ P. K. Narayana Pillai
3 „ V. T. Chacko	9 Rao Sahib S. Paramesvara
4 „ M. K. Janardana Kamath	Aiyar
5 „ J. M. Joseph	10 Mr. P. K. Thomas
6 „ K. M. Kuriakose	

The motion was declared carried.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The discussion of this Demand will stop for the present. The House will proceed to the adjournment motion. The half-an-hour still available for this Demand will be granted after the discussion on the adjournment motion is over.